

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, July 27, 1995

Published Since 1877

Education ministry grads eager for first church posts

By William H. Perkins Jr.

A new crop of Mississippi ministerial graduates, fresh from their studies at the Jackson off-campus center of New Orleans Seminary, is ready to meet the education ministry needs of special churches across the state.

The graduates have completed the Christian Education Associate Program, a series of eight courses designed to prepare them for education ministry service to smaller churches that cannot afford a full-time staffer but may be able to support a part-time, bivocational education minister.

Chester Vaughn of Jackson, coordinator of the program, said the five graduating students have attended long hours of classroom instruction and worked hard for the opportunity to assist churches

with education needs.

"In the past, there has been much success with both bivocational pastors and music directors. Perhaps now is the time for churches to give serious consideration to bivocational education workers."

"These graduates are ready to serve. We would like for more churches with these special education ministry needs to contact us," Vaughn said.

The course of study for the Christian Education Associate Program, offered through the seminary's School of Christian Training, includes:

- Church programs.
- Church administration.
- Personal leadership skills.
- Developing leaders in church.

- Baptist distinctives.
- Developing an evangelistic church.
- Southern Baptist curriculum.
- Principles of teaching and learning.

In addition to the Jackson center, comparable courses are offered in Columbus and Purvis. A new cycle begins August 21, Vaughn said.

The courses are conducted one night each week in two-hour sessions over an eight-week period.

Instructors experienced in the field of Christian education are enlisted to teach the courses. The cost is \$75 per student per course.

For information on placement of the graduates in churches, contact Louis Smith, director of church-minister relations at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free out-

side Jackson (800) 748-1651.

For information on the Christian Education Associate Program in Mississippi, contact Vaughn at 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

The School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary can be contacted at NOBTS Box 64, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70126. Telephone: (504) 282-4455.

"Ordinary" men share passion for evangelizing across nation

ATLANTA (BP) — Art Stacer, Joe Cowan, and Travis Johnson insist they're "common, ordinary people." Yet together they distribute 250,000 evangelistic tracts a year, and in one week this summer they reported more than 500 professions of faith.

The three men live in San Antonio, Texas, where they have jobs and families. But as the Holy Spirit leads, they go to America's largest cities to witness in the poorest neighborhoods.

Cities they've been to include Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Houston, and Dallas. They said their strategy comes from the New Testament. "Jesus Christ went from city to city," Cowan explained.

This summer the trio was in Atlanta during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting. As messengers voted for officers and discussed restructuring, these men witnessed in housing projects surrounding downtown. In five days, they recorded 504 professions of faith.

"We're not heroes," said Stacer, a member of First Church of Castle Hills, Texas. "The Spirit of God is simply working in clay vessels."

At 60, Stacer is the group's leader. Working in inner-city evangelism for 24 years has convicted Stacer about the role of laity.

"Jesus Christ never said pastors are supposed to go out. Pastors equip," said the retired military airman.

"The Lord has an assignment for every saint in the world, a God-called purpose."

The men shun publicity — they did not want their picture taken — but they agreed to discuss their work to encourage more people to be involved in evangelism.

"Anyone can do this," Stacer said. "They CAN do it."

As the men travel, they live in a white van that Johnson uses in his Texas painting business. They refer to it as the Econoline Motel.

They go to housing projects armed with New Testaments and gospel tracts. When someone makes a profession of faith, "We give them a Here's Hope New Testament, open to page 85 and get them started in the gospel of John," Johnson said. The new Christian is encouraged to read the Bible every day, pray every day, and "find a good, Bible-believing church."

The men keep lists of each new Christian's name, age, and address so they can pray over the names. They also give the lists to local churches for follow-up.

Where the men go and how long they stay depends on the Holy Spirit's leadership. This summer they went to Washington after leaving Atlanta.

When they return to San Antonio, they don't leave witnessing behind. Johnson and Cowan will paint houses to earn an income, but they save a few hours every afternoon to witness with Stacer.

"It's a daily ministry, and it's massive," Johnson said.



Recent graduates of Mississippi's Christian Education Associate Program through New Orleans Seminary include (back row, from left) James Pace, Pearl; Bill Ready, Columbia; Bewell Bryant, Clinton; (front row, from left) Becky Brock, Richland; and Peggy Ward, Vicksburg. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Who witnesses to the unsaved?



Looking Back...

10 years ago

Plainway Church, Laurel, honors pastor Harold Ishee for 35 years of service to the church by dedicating a portrait that will hang in the church foyer. Ishee has been Plainway's only pastor, and Plainway has been Ishee's sole pastorate.

20 years ago

The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta appeals to Baptists in Mississippi to "adopt" South Vietnamese refugees in need of sponsors in the U.S. after they fled the communist takeover of their country.

50 years ago

First Church, Brookhaven, votes to help finance construction of a new church building near Copiah-Lineoln Junior College in Wesson, where more than 75% of the young people attending classes are Southern Baptists in need of the facility.

Source: HMB Research Department

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The longevity revolution

Eighty-five years from now (2080) there will be 78 million people older than 85 in the USA. This is 26 times more than there are today. Now the 65 and over groups make up 13% of our total population and fill 40% of all hospital beds. Also, this 13% will consume twice as much prescription medicine as all other age groups combined (Newsweek, Oct. 4, 1993).

Long term care of sick and aged parents can be devastating financially, spiritually, and emotionally. This is not the best way to get even with your children. It is time to do some quality thinking and planning before the revolution overwhelms us. You may wish to begin by ordering the catalogue of available resources from the National Council on the Aging, Inc., 409 Third Street SW, Washington, DC 20024.

It is possible to get involved in a caregiver support group, health promotion for older persons, older job seekers' guide; or to study new ways of health care for

elders, housing options, home services, adult day care centers, multi-purpose senior center and a host of others. There is information and helps available; seek it before an emergency takes place. The rise of "adult abuse" is staggering — over 70,000 were abandoned last year. Honor thy father and mother is still in the Word.

Allison Greene has written **Your Aging Parents** (Smyth and Helwys) to help in coping with sources of stress with emotional, family, and financial issues. Greene says there are difficult choices to be made and we need the available information before making these choices.

The National Institute for Healthcare Research (NIHR) recently observed that death after heart surgery is reduced by social and religious factors. In fact, elderly heart patients are 14 times less likely to die following surgery if they are socially active and find strength in their religious faith.

Our churches will have to do

some re-thinking in ministering to the elders. Social Security and other factors encouraged Americans to think of 65 as the beginning of old age. Significant physical and social changes in life, however, are not experienced by most people until they are well into the seventh decade. The image of the "older Church" needs to be revised. Churches need to make known the vast number of ministries open to the older generation. Volunteer missions now have people serving who are in their 70s and even their 80s.

Older people need an environment where they can relax and explore the possibilities. An 84-year-old woman is now tutoring students with reading problems. A man over 70 is now financial advisor to a group of young couples in his church. Needs can be matched with talents in many churches and everyone will benefit. The winds of this revolution are blowing through our churches; we can participate or stagnate.



THE FRAGMENTS

Patchwork and other art

It was a lazy July Saturday morning with the temp soon hovering around 90 degrees. My wife and I tossed around several options on what to do but she had seen where a quilt show was in town. "A quilt show," I queried. "You mean like cover for a cold night?" Exactly!

I stumbled through several other available features — knife and gun show, dynamite and blasting seminar, mud-bogging, or even the Hogwild bar-b-cue cook off. That all sounded interesting, she said, and we were off to the quilt show.

It's difficult to look macho at a quilt show. My six-square-inch belt buckle vied for attention with the quilts; my boots were definitely more of the hogwild variety. I looked in both directions before leaping from the car (there was not a pick-up in the parking lot) and dashing inside. The people were nice and friendly, plus the quilts were lovely.

My mother, who thought a quilting bee bordered the promised land, would have been proud.

Intricate squares, stars, circles, hooks, stitches, and eye-popping designs arrested your attention.

My time was spent dodging from quilt to quilt lest I be seen. Talk about cover, it was re-defined that day. If word ever leaked out to the Rodeo Wrestlers, I'd be laughed out of the barn. Meanwhile my wife was oohing and awing, counting stitches, and saying how glad we were to be there. One gentleman wanted to know if I attended the Paducah Designs and I answered, "No, but we had been to the Dixie National," which mercifully ended the small talk.

My wife wanted to buy a quilt, which was immaterial to me until I saw the price. "Sorta looks like a saddle blanket," I muttered.

"It's a work of art," she said. We left soon after this and she said, "Now what was that hog thing you wanted to visit?" By then the culture had seeped into my viewpoint and clouded my vision.

"Oh, nothing dear," I answered, "Perhaps we could drop by the art museum."

— GH

Former Southwestern president assesses SBC through long view

FORT WORTH (ABP) — If the Southern Baptist Convention gave out perfect attendance pins, Robert Naylor would earn a diamond-studded one.

Naylor, president of Southwestern Seminary from 1958 to 1978, has attended every SBC annual meeting since 1933. That's a 62-year run of perfect attendance.

Based on that long view, the last 16 years of turmoil within the SBC should be viewed as a difficult phase but not the end of the convention, Naylor writes in his new book, **A Messenger's Memoirs**. The book chronicles Naylor's report and commentary on SBC annual meetings from 1933 through 1994.

In the book, Naylor briefly addresses both the mundane and the controversial from each year's convention. He covers topics such as controversy over the Baptist Sunday School Board's Genesis commentary in the 1960s, the growing influence of ultra-conservatives in the 1970s and '80s and the 1994 firing of his successor at Southwestern, Russell Dilday.

In a foreword, Duke McCall, former president of Southern Seminary, explains that Naylor's

accounts present a progressive picture of changes in the SBC. "Movement within the convention which was so gradual that it went unnoticed by those present becomes visible in these 'Memoirs,'" McCall writes.

In the book, McCall adds, Naylor notes the "innovations that have altered the very character of Baptist connectional life."

Naylor's accounts note his consternation with many changes in SBC annual meetings over the years — ranging from the shift from singing traditional hymns to singing praise choruses to the shift from friendly presidential elections of unannounced candidates to fierce contests between well-organized campaigns.

But Naylor's dismay turns time and again to puffed-up attendance for the convention sessions in which a president is elected, a trend much-discussed since 1979.

In an interview, he explained: "I emphasize in the book the thing that takes place after the election of president. We lose 10,000 people in three hours. That's horrible. It has a much deeper meaning than appears on the surface."

Yet the "politicizing" of the convention, as Naylor called it in the interview, did not begin with

the start of the "conservative resurgence" in 1979 but years before.

For example, he records that in 1962, a messenger to the SBC moved that "the messengers to this convention, by standing vote, reaffirm their faith in the entire Bible as the authoritative, authentic, infallible word of God; that we express our abiding and unchanging objection to the dissemination of theological views in our seminaries which would undermine such faith in the historical accuracy and doctrinal integrity of the Bible."

This was a precursor of the full-blown conservative effort to capture control of the SBC beginning in 1979, Naylor suggests. "There would not be a time again when our seminaries would be removed from this subtle aura of suspicion," he writes.

Naylor records the 1990 convention in New Orleans as a pivotal year in the political-theological struggle between moderates and conservatives: "It was decisive; the fundamentalists were in full control."

Despite his displeasure with tactics employed by those who captured control of the SBC, Naylor remains loyal to the conven-

tion and its institutions.

He illustrates this in his reference to the 1994 convention in Orlando, Fla., held only three months after Southwestern Seminary's trustees fired Russell Dilday as president, igniting a firestorm of protest.

"At every opportunity, I had urged our Southwestern family to remember that the seminary itself was more important than Naylor, Dilday, or any seminary president," he writes. "We needed to keep our eyes upon the charge given to Southwestern Seminary by God and blessed of God

through these 86 years."

In the concluding chapter of his book, Naylor summarizes his perspective of hope for the SBC, based on his long-term view.

"God has taught through our valleys and on our mountain tops that he has not deserted Southern Baptists, that he has the answer to our divisions, that there awaits a better day, if we will claim it," he says. "In some places I have found a disposition to despair as though we could not again be one people. Let me encourage you to look up and believe that God will lead us through."

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 119 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 24
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$7.35 per year plus \$1 postage increase (total: \$8.35) payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Postmaster: Send changes of address to The BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Send news, communication, and address changes to The Editor, BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (601) 968-3800.

CBF general assembly meets missionaries via video

By Marv Knox

FORT WORTH (ABP) — In a world of options, Louise Hendley, Mich Tosan, and Martha Shaw felt they had no choice but to become missionaries.

They were among 16 missionaries commissioned by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship during its 1995 general assembly in Fort Worth July 20-22.

"It was like a fire in my bones... I have to do this," Hendley said, describing how she felt the moment God called her to be a missionary.

"From the instant Christ saved me, Christ called me to be a mis-

sionary," added Tosan on a videotape which presented the new missionaries to about 3,100 participants in the Fellowship meeting.

And although Shaw felt totally inadequate to travel around the globe with the gospel message, she heard God telling her, "Yes, Martha, you can do that," she recalled.

The Fellowship's 16 new missionaries comprise the four-year-old organization's largest class of incoming missions workers, reported Global Missions Coordinator Keith Parks. They bring the Fellowship's total missions force

to 71 missionaries serving across the United States and throughout the world.

Those missionaries serve in "a world without borders," Parks stressed.

The Fellowship does not assign "home" or "foreign" missionaries, but rather targets "people groups" comprised of people who share common language and ethnic identity, he explained. Consequently, many of the Fellowship's missionaries do not have geographic assignments but rather minister to specific groups of people, wherever they live.

God led the Fellowship to develop "a concept of missions tailored to the day in which we live," Parks said. The focus on people groups allows the Fellowship to "find a niche in reaching people" which does not compete with other missions organizations, but targets people who never have heard the Christian gospel, he stressed.

"One out of four people on planet Earth live in those parts that haven't heard," he said. Yet only one-half of 1% of Christian missions funds and a tiny fraction of missionaries have been dedicated to reaching those people.

"We're intent on making a mark for God in that dark part of the world," Parks said. "We're focusing on a world that is hard, difficult, and dangerous, that has been neglected for generations."

Still, Parks described the

Fellowship's missions program as a rocket set to launch "into an orbit where Baptist missions has never dared to go before."

In the three years since the Fellowship last met in Fort Worth, the number of its career missionaries has grown from four to 77, he said. Three years ago, the Fellowship didn't count missions volunteers, but it had 781 in the first six months of this year, he added.

Fellowship supporters are "growing faster than we ever imagined," and the Woman's Missionary Union recently agreed to work with the Fellowship to prepare and distribute missions education materials, he said. The Fellowship also is starting a new prayer emphasis, Prayer Vanguard, which will send volunteers to fields of unreached people groups and pray for mission opportunities among them.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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CBF leaders overrule motion to state denomination status

By Herb Hollinger

FORT WORTH (BP) — Is the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship a denomination? That's the question a Texan wants the four-year-old organization to answer.

But, his motion was ruled "out of order" by CBF Moderator Carolyn Crumpler at the July 21 business session of the CBF General Assembly at the Tarrant County Convention Center.

Bill Montgomery, retired Air Force chaplain from San Antonio, Texas, told the 2,000 attending the session he wanted the group to declare itself a denomination at the 1996 meeting in Richmond, Va. In the meantime, he also wanted the CBF's Coordinating Council to study the matter.

The CBF is an organization of moderate Southern Baptists who are critical of Southern Baptist Convention leadership. CBF leaders have resisted calling the organi-

zation a denomination although SBC leaders contend it is and is in competition with the SBC.

Crumpler, a former executive director of the Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and now living in Cincinnati, Ohio, told the session that Montgomery had submitted properly his motion but she was ruling it out of order. Montgomery was allowed to challenge the chair's ruling and speak to the session.

"We are more than a mission delivery system," Montgomery said in alluding to a statement made earlier by Cecil Sherman, CBF's top executive. "We are doing a lot of things a denomination does."

"Let's drop the guise... for all practical purposes we are a denomination," Montgomery pleaded. He said the SBC and CBF are "different cats," like leopards, with neither willing to change his spots.

Crumpler then asked for debate

on the motion challenging her ruling. One person asked if the motion would be in order if it simply asked the coordinating council to study the matter but not call for a vote in 1996. Crumpler's parliamentarian had ruled a motion could not bind a future General Assembly.

An unidentified woman reached a microphone and started to speak but Crumpler cut her short saying she was not speaking to the motion challenging the ruling of the chair.

Then, citing time restrictions, Crumpler called for the voice vote. Although the vote clearly affirmed the moderator's ruling there was a significant "no" voice vote.

Montgomery earlier had told Coordinating Council members that it is difficult to get approval for chaplains if the organization continues declaring itself not a denomination. However, Fellowship chaplaincy candidates apparently have had no problem getting an endorsement from the SBC's Home Mission Board.

Ed Beddingfield, Coordinating Council member from Sylva, N.C., told Associated Baptist Press, "There has been no one turned down. The Home Mission Board has bent over backward."

The SBC voted in 1994 to direct its agencies not to accept funds from the CBF. SBC leaders have called the CBF, created in May 1991, a competing denomination, especially for local church contributions to missions.

Why the CBF leadership does not want to accept the denominational label isn't completely clear.

Sherman has criticized SBC leaders for trying to force the label on CBF but told Baptist Press that it would "someday in the future" accept the label.

Longtime pastor Mason dies in Crystal Springs

Andrew Estus Mason, 83, pastor emeritus of First Church, Crystal Springs, died July 24 of heart failure at his Crystal Springs home.

Funeral services will be held today (July 27) at 3 p.m. at First Church, Crystal Springs. Burial will follow in City Cemetery.

Mason, a Jefferson County native, preached his first sermon 65 years ago while attending Moody Bible Institute in



Mason

Chicago. After graduating from Mississippi College in Clinton and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., he pastored churches in Indiana and in Lyon and Meridian.

He was pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs, for 25 years. He retired in 1978, but served 20 interim pastorates in Copiah, Lincoln, and Hinds counties. Mason was a trustee of Clarke College and served on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

He is survived by his wife Gertrude; two daughters, Anne Bass and Sara Barnes, both of Jackson; three sisters; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



Venezuelans set for ministry

Southern Baptist missionary Mike Glenn (far right) of Colorado and national pastor Carry Monasterios (far left) stand with part of the congregation of the Only Christ Saves Baptist Church near Cartanal, Venezuela. Venezuela will participate in a three-year partnership mission effort with Mississippi beginning January 1996. Mississippi Baptists will take advantage of ministry opportunities in areas such as evangelism, leadership development, construction and medical/dental projects, and sports team specialty events to help Venezuelans spread the gospel in their nation. Call the Partnership Missions Office at (601) 968-3800 or toll-free, (800) 748-1651, to find out how to participate. Bill Hardy is Mississippi's Partnership Missions coordinator. (Photo by Guy Henderson)

Christian Heritage Week set for Sept. observance

Mississippi's second annual Christian Heritage Week will be observed Sept. 24-30, according to state coordinator Teresa Gossett of Jackson.

Gossett, a member of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, also announced Governor Kirk Fordice has proclaimed that week as Christian Heritage Week in Mississippi.

Featured speaker for the week will be Catherine M. Millard, researcher, author, and head of Christian Heritage Ministries in Springfield, Va.

Millard has written three books — *God's Signature Over the Nation's Capital*, *The Rewriting of America's History*, and *Great American Statesmen and Heroes* — in which she calls to task revisionist historians who

she contends have rewritten and improperly secularized important parts of American history.

Millard will speak at Morris Heights Church in Clinton on Saturday, Sept. 23, and Sunday, Sept. 24.

Joining her will be Matt Friedeman, a local seminary instructor who hosts a conservative radio talk show and writes a column in the Jackson *Clarion-Ledger* newspaper, and Marvin Sanders of the American Family Association in Tupelo.

More events during Christian Week are being planned, Gossett said, and will be announced soon. For more information on the observance or to schedule Millard to speak while she is in Mississippi, contact Gossett at (601) 984-5272 or (601) 371-8894.

Loftices plan return to African work after partnership stint in Zimbabwe

By William H. Perkins Jr

Agricultural specialist Michael Loftice has a lasting impression of his two-year field assignment under the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project.

"I've never grown crops with so little water. God provided," he said.

When the 37-year-old Texas A&M graduate accepted the partnership's offer to help farmers in the southern Zimbabwe countryside around Beitbridge improve their sorghum yields, he knew the task would be demanding.

Old, entrenched methods of inefficient farming, combined with the year-round threat of constant drought, meant Loftice's work was cut out for him.

Loftice turned those concerns over to God and packed off to Africa with his family: wife Susan, 34; daughter Ellen, 11; and sons Paul, 9, and Brian, 3.

Loftice's goals for the first year of his

assignment in Zimbabwe were reasonable, he thought.

"We expected 100 farmers to participate in the first year, but 226 chose to work with us. In the second year, 500 farmers wanted to work with us. Production went from zero per hectare (2 1/2 acres) to 2,000 pounds per hectare. God provided," Loftice said.

Even greater was the spiritual yield, he pointed out.

Working with other Southern Baptist missionaries among the Venda people — the smallest of the three major tribal groups in the country — eight churches were started and 400 new believers were baptized during the period Loftice was there.

Much remains to be done, Loftice said, as the people of that south African country struggle to shake off the old ways.

"Zimbabwians practice ancestral worship. Many profess to be Christians, and

they believe in a supreme God, but they also believe their ancestors have to intercede with God on their behalf," he explained.

Loftice announced that he and his family will soon be returning to missionary work in Africa under appointment of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

The family will be formally appointed in an August ceremony at Ridgecrest Assembly in North Carolina, then leave the U.S. in December for 12 months of language study in France before reporting to their assignment in the Niger Republic.

For more information on the partnership projects of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator, MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



The Loftices will soon head back to Africa after a successful two-year assignment under the Mississippi/Zimbabwe Partnership Project. They are (clockwise from left): Paul, Michael, Susan, Ellen, and Brian. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



Charles Colson

MasterLife workshop will be part of Equipping Institute

Woodland Hills Church, Jackson, will offer a MasterLife workshop during its Institute for Equipping, Sept. 11-14. Sessions will be held each morning and afternoon, beginning Monday, Sept. 11, at 1 p.m., concluding Thursday, Sept. 14, at 3 p.m. There will be no night sessions. The institute is a project of the equipping team of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

John Temple, pastor of First Church, Madison, will co-lead the workshop with Terry Martinez of Nashville.

The workshop is a shortened version of the traditional MasterLife workshops, but will provide in-depth training and a MasterLife certificate upon completion.

Cost for the workshop is \$80, which includes all materials. Registrations should be mailed to Jan Cossitt MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

For more information, call Glenn Shows in the MBCB Department of Discipleship and

Family Ministries. Telephone (601) 968-3800, or toll-free, (800) 748-1651.

Former pastor J.P. Bush dies

John Purser Bush, 86, died of heart failure July 19 at St. Catherine's Village in Madison.

Services were held July 20 at First Church, Terry, where he was a member. Burial followed in Bethlehem Church Cemetery near Georgetown.

Bush, a Simpson County native, was a former pastor in rural communities throughout Mississippi, most recently in Union.

Survivors include his sons, John of Hattiesburg, Robert of Baton Rouge, and James of Madison; daughter Elizabeth Copeland of Frankfort, Ky.; two sisters; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

First person...

Colson: Church missing in action on nation's youth crime problem

By Charles Colson

ATLANTA (BP) — We're at a moment in American life where our liberties are at stake. Not so much religious liberties, although they're certainly under assault.

But our liberties as a free people... because crime and fear have become so pervasive in American life that Americans will make the Faustian bargain... that people in every society have made through the centuries — and that is, when you're overcome with fear, you will trade your liberties for order.

In 20 years of prison ministry, in 69 countries, with 50,000 volunteers in America, visiting the homes of 430,000 kids last Christmas with Angel Tree gifts, I think we probably know the mentality of the people in prison and the subculture which produces most of the crime in America about as well as any group possibly could. We've lived among them.

I've watched over 20 years an incredible coarsening in American culture, a dulling of the conscience, a loss of moral sensitivities and moral training, a weakening and a breakdown of character in American life.

These kids that are coming off the streets today are different — completely different — from the kids 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago.

The crime problem is largely a juvenile problem.

If you took the juvenile crime rate out of the American crime rate, if you took the inner-city crime rate out of the American crime rate, you'd have about the same crime rate as Belgium.

But the complete collapse of the inner-city cultures and the complete collapse of the family structure among large segments of

our population have created a crisis of character that really threatens to overwhelm us.

I think the moral collapse at the center of American life has overwhelmed the capacity of our institutions to respond.

And that's why we're building prisons faster and faster and faster

When you're overcome with fear, you will trade your liberties for order.
— Charles Colson

and faster, and the crime rate keeps going up. It's gone up 560% since the 1960s.

But it's the character of crime that really has American people frightened to death — and rightly so, because these kids are committing crimes without any remorse, without any reason, without any motive, without any purpose.... (Their) conscience has never been cultivated.

I was in a prison in Indiana and it was probably the toughest place I've been in the last 10 years, maybe since Angola or Statesville, or Walla Walla.

This was Michigan City, Ind. I've been there five times. And the guys were looking at me — these kids, 19, 20, 21 — with the hardest eyes.... There was literally apartheid — the black inmates were over here and the white inmates were over here.

When (former Chicago Bears linebacker) Mike Singletary spoke, the black inmates responded. When I spoke, the white inmates responded.

When it was over, I turned to Chuck Adkins, the assistant warden who's been there for 20 years. I said, "Chuck, has this place changed?" I'd been there five times. I said, "It sure feels like a different place to me."

He said, "Changed? Ten years ago, I could talk to these kids about right and wrong. Today, I talk to them and they have no idea what I'm talking about."

He said, "The biggest administrative problem I have in this prison is, the older inmates ask for protection from the younger inmates coming in off the streets."

And that's the population group in America that's growing the fastest.

Now... we've reached the point of saturation, and the moral problem has overwhelmed the institutions' ability to respond.

That's true. There simply is no institutional response to the juvenile crime problem.... We don't have one. And I talk to corrections people all across America, and they tell me... there's not a thing we can do.

And we as a church aren't there, taking the one thing that will make a difference — the life-changing power of Jesus Christ to those inmates in prison and particularly to their families and particularly to those kids that are coming out on the street.

And I fear, I tremble, I shudder at what will happen to American culture.

(Editor's Note: Comments about the nation's crime problem were voiced by Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship, in a news conference prior to his Atlanta address to the Pastors' Conference.)

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

July 27, 1995

HouseTops is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

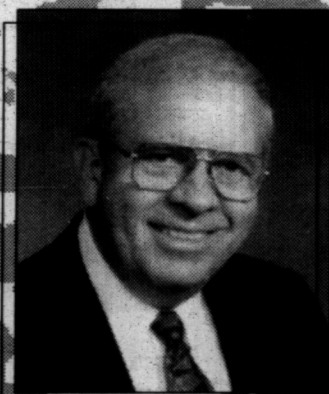
A KEY LEADER SEMINAR

Missions Extension and Associational Administration presents...

A Look at Reconciliation in the New Testament

2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Romans 5:10;
Ephesians 2:16; Colossians 1:20

Baptist Building — Skyroom
Friday, September 22, 1995
9:30 a.m. — 2:30 p.m.



Harold Bryson
Professor of Christian
Studies and Philosophy
Mississippi College



Arthur Siggers
Pastor, Mt. Olive BC
Hattiesburg

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"Helping to bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"



CHURCH MUSIC CONFERENCES

Designed for all church music leadership but
especially for those from churches with 150 mem-
bers or less in Sunday School

Derma Baptist Church

Derma, Miss.

Thursday, August 10, 1995

6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Friday, August 11, 1995

9 a.m. - noon

...

Antioch Baptist Church

Columbus, Miss.

Friday, August 11, 1995

6:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Saturday, August 12, 1995

9 a.m. - noon

cut off this part and return to: Richard Brogan, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Meal Reservation for Seminar

I will attend. Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____

Or call 1-800-748-1651 (in Jackson area call 968-3800) and ask for Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department to reserve lunch. **Deadline for lunch reservations is September 15.** Your response will help us prepare for the meal.

Thank you,
Richard Brogan, Consultant
Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department

YOUTH NIGHT '95

The summer's almost over but not the fun. Come
and be a part of it at Youth Night '95.

Mississippi Memorial Stadium
Jackson, Miss.

Friday, July 28, 1995 • 7 p.m.

Pray this day..... August 1-19

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>We will list MK birthdays for August on this calendar, but also in this issue of Housetops you will find an MK birthday calendar for September. We will be giving you these birthdays several weeks early so that you may send cards or packages if you wish . . . thanks for praying for MKs . . . we hear from many parents that it is appreciated very much . . . let's pray this day . . .</p> <p>Prayer Ministry Office P. O. Box 530 Jackson, MS 39205-0530 Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904</p>	<p>Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY</p>	<p>for youth who made decisions at Youth Night, Friday, July 28, that their lives will be happier and richer for those decisions</p>	<p>for victims of domestic violence, for shelters for those victims in your area (if you are not aware of them, try to find out), for people who are not victims to respond to meet the needs of victims</p>	<p>for requests from John and Kathy Vaughn, missionaries in Brazil: for the weekly Bible study groups which are continuing as result of an successful evangelistic effort in May by a volunteer from the United States; for special work being done in several neighborhoods in their area by both churches and individuals, that churches will result</p>	<p>for their friend and his wife, who are dentists, and their three young adult children for whom they have prayed for a long time to become Christians; this would be a similar request from every missionary, more than likely</p>	<p>MK birthday Everett Presley 8-5-77 Caixa Postal 48.000 20512-970 Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil Parents: Johnny and Beth Religious Education</p>
<p>for several churches in our state who are in the process of beginning their church prayer ministries</p>	<p>MK birthday Marilyn Marshall 8-7-87 P.O. Box 1949 Prentiss, MS 39474 Parents: Philip and Sheila General Evangelism, Thailand</p>	<p>for all those involved in the conference "Ministry in a Gambling Community" at First Baptist Church, Vicksburg, August 21 - its purpose is to assist churches to meet the needs of the people in their community affected by the gambling industry</p>	<p>for families whose hearts ache because a child was lost before birth</p>	<p>for the Baptist Building staff and directors of missions as they work in their planning retreat today and tomorrow</p>	<p>for churches in your area to be willing to help meet needs of those affected by AIDS</p>	<p>MK birthday Miss Tracy Thomas Black Forest Academy Postfach 1109 7842 Kandern 1 Federal Republic of Germany Parents: Robert and Beverly Hospital Administration</p>
<p>that adequate numbers of volunteers will answer God's call to do work in areas where people cannot do the work for themselves</p>	<p>that stores in your neighborhood will remove the questionable literature they sell</p>	<p>for school administrations as they all get ready for and begin the new school year</p>	<p>for children you know who have a difficult time learning as they go to school</p>	<p>that the college freshmen you know will be able to adjust well and feel God's guidance their first year away from home</p>	<p>for parents you know who feel the pain of loneliness for those college freshmen</p>	<p>MK birthday Andrea Bailey 8-19-89 Casilla 3168 Santa Cruz, Bolivia Parents: Kenneth and Ruth Theological Education</p>



2-90

Mr. Christopher S. Harper
Global Partners (UK)
Kingsgate House, High Street
Redhill RH1 1SG
ENGLAND
Parents:
Brian S. & Laura B.
CSI Representative

8-93

Mr. Nathan S. Tilton
Kingsgate House, High Street
Redhill RH1 1SG
ENGLAND
Parents:
James S. & Penni B.
CSI Representative

11-82

Miss Ariel Austin Massey
Sucursal 5
Casilla de Correo 11
1900 La Plata
ARGENTINA
Parents:
Gregory H. & Karen L.
Music Promotion

12-84

Mr. Whitney W. Kliesch
Ecole Baptiste de Theologie
B. P. 4860
Lome
TOGO
Parents:
Milton W. & Pamela P.
Theological Education

16-86

Mr. Francis K. Horton IV
190 Middle Road
Fortune Centre
Singapore 0718
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
Parents:
Francis K., III & Angela H.
CSI Representative

18-78

Miss Summers Dunaway
Caixa Postal 7087
7169-970 Brasilia, DF
BRAZIL
Parents:
L. Philip & Lara L.
Theological Education

25-79

Mr. Russell Kyzar
Apartado 4035-1000
San Jose,
COSTA RICA
Parents:
J. Russell & Melinda H.
Music Promotion

27-83

Miss Amy K. Lee
52-31 Matsumidai
Ikoma-shi 630-02
JAPAN
Parents:
Henry G., Jr. & Linda J.
General Evangelism

September Birthdays

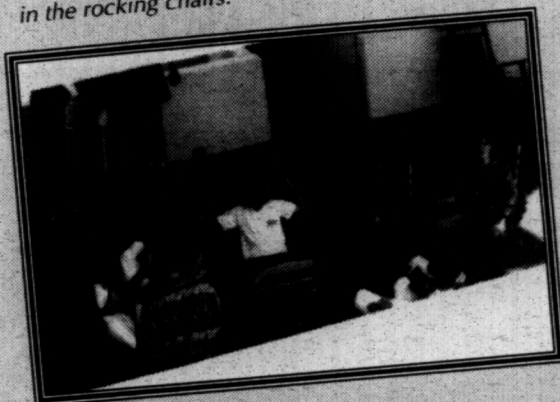
HOUSE TOPS

PLAY BALL:

Story and photos by Tim Nicholas



At Gulfshore, mixed in with the worship and Bible study, is time for relaxation and recreation. Activities range from a game of touch football to singing country gospel in the rocking chairs.



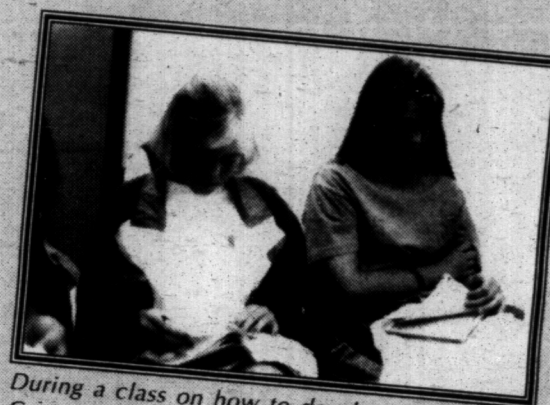
After the closing service of a Youth Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly this summer, a tightly knit group of teenage girls walked arm in arm back to the administration building from the auditorium. One was overheard to say, "This is the huggingest group of girls I've ever known."

Asked if something good had happened, they said yes. What happened at the service? "We felt like we were slipping away," one said. Another offered, "There's peer pressure from our non-Christian friends at school. We know we love them and they're going to hell."

Another added, "We're going to talk to them as soon as we get back." They said God had been dealing with their group all week, "from the day I stepped foot on this place," one said.

These girls were among hundreds of young people who made spiritual decisions this summer at Gulfshore during one of six youth conferences sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The final tally of commitments made at these conferences is as follows: 112 professions of faith; 60 decisions for Christian life commitments; 16 decisions for Christian vocational service; and 313 rededications. The programs attracted more than 3,000 high school students from across the state.

The students are offered an opportunity to develop their Christian walk or to make a response to the claims of Christ through the Bible study, worship services and classes held by college and seminary faculty members.



During a class on how to develop a quiet time, Casey Farris and Emily Hood, both 13 and members of Auburn Church, Tupelo, look up a scripture reference.



Participants at the Youth Conference at Gulfshore take time to share their experiences in church. From left are Jake Arnold, 15, of Algoma Church, Algoma; Patrick Schoolar, 15, of New Hope Church, Hatley; and Trent Killingsworth, 13, of Clear Branch Church, Brookhaven.

A fall training opportunity for all Sunday School leadership.

Conferences include training for the following:

General Officers
Pastor/Staff

Adult (experienced)
Adult (inexperienced)

Youth (experienced)
Youth (inexperienced)

Children

Preschool

Division Directors

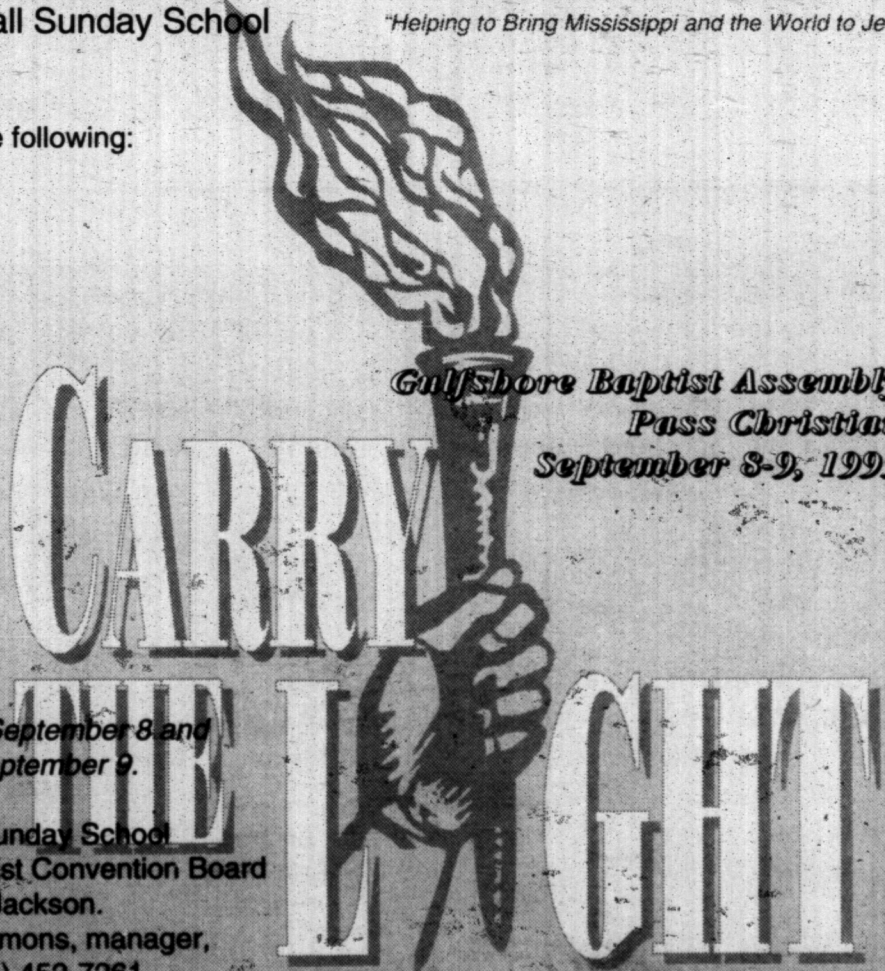
Conference begins at 5 p.m. September 8 and concludes at noon on September 9.

For more information contact the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.

For reservations contact Frank Simmons, manager, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly at (601) 452-7261

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"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"



Mark your calendar for the

1995 Lay Missions Conference

October 30, 1995

First Baptist Church, Jackson

Marketplace Ministry: "New Beginnings"

The purpose of the Lay Missions Conference is to help explore ways to extend Christ's Kingdom through the concept of Marketplace Ministry. If we are to win Mississippi and the world to Jesus in our generation, it is significant that each of us become marketplace ministers.

For more information contact the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.



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Styles of Leadership (Bill Causey)
Homebound (Sunday School)
Mind of Christ - Overview (David Carter)
KidShare (Linda Reeves)
MasterLife - Monday - Thursday (Terry Martinez & John Temple)
Effective Committee Work (James Ryan)
Cross-Cultural Training
Previews Bible Study (Sunday School)
Leading Men's Ministry (Jim Didlake)
Institute for Home & Foreign Mission Study (Marjorie Kelly)
Fresh Encounter - Overview (David Carter)
Children's TeamKid (David Morrow)
Preschoolers at Church (Don Hicks)

Tuesday

Developing A Formal Structure for Ministry (James Ryan)
Developing a Media Ministry
Growth Spiral (Bill Gambrell)
Institute for Home & Foreign Mission Study (Marjorie Kelly)
Experiencing God - Overview (David Carter)
Sharing God's Special Plan with Children (Linda Reeves)
Church Council Mission Statement (Julius Thompson)
Going Where the People Are (Bill Gambrell)
The Five Love Languages - Overview (David Carter)
Pre-teen Experiencing God (David Morrow)

Church Administration (James Ryan)

Going One-On-One (Jerry Smith)
Associational Disaster Relief Training (Brotherhood)
WMU Emphasis Book - Tuesday & Wednesday (Jane Allison)
DiscipleLife (Wes Pegues)
Exploring 1 & 2 - Overview (Don Hicks)
Preschool TeamKid (David Morrow)

Wednesday

Preaching the Old Old Story in a New Way - Thursday (Harold Bryon)
Seven Laws of the Learner
Leading Experiencing God (Youth Edition) - Wednesday & Thursday (BSSB)
Truth Work for Children (David Morrow)
Life Support - Overview (David Carter)
Children's TeamKid (David Morrow)
Doctrine of the Church - (John McCall)

Thursday

Lift Team Training (Julius Thompson)
Doctrine of the Church (John McCall)
Mission Opportunities for Volunteers (Jan Cossitt)
Grandparenting by Grace - Overview (Horace Kerr)
Senior Adult Leadership Training (Greg McNeece)
Fun with Sr. Adults (Glenn Shows, Jan Halford)
Preschool/Children Ministers Forum (David Morrow, Mary Ann Jacob, Betty Coward)
Sr. Adult Rally (Greg McNeece and Glenn Shows)

Vessels

Vessels, a video magazine sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is in production for the second of its 1995 editions and shooting has begun for the third issue.

The title for **Vessels** is taken from II Cor. 4:7: But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."

Vessels tells stories of how God uses human vessels in Mississippi to carry out his work. It is a product of the church information support team of the MBCB.

Lew King, a Jackson based music producer, has written original theme music which is in each edition of **Vessels**.

Volume 1, No. 1, has segments on a volunteer project in Haiti, a report on the adult and youth evangelism conferences, and one on churches crossing cultural barriers.

Approximately 500 copies of **Vessels** are mailed out to church and associational leaders, including all directors of missions, and all members of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. They are available for use in any church-related setting, from prayer meetings to mission group sessions to banquets. The Broadcast Services Department at the MBCB has copies for churches to borrow.

The edition currently in production and to be made available in August at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting include segments on Baptist senior adults, Bible drills, and training Baptist student leaders.

Already shot for the edition to be released in November are segments on the youth conference at Gulfshore and a series of health clinics in the Delta sponsored by the Baptist Nursing Fellowship and the North Delta Association.

If you would like more information about the **Vessels** video magazine, contact Farrell Blankenship or Tim Nicholas at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at 1-800-748-1651 or 968-3800 in Jackson.

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD
"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

HOUSE TOPS

House committee approves partial-birth abortion ban

WASHINGTON (BP) — A House of Representatives judiciary committee divided along party lines has approved legislation banning a gruesome, late-term abortion procedure.

The committee sent to the full House by a 20-12 vote the Partial-birth Abortion Ban Act (H.R. 1833) after two days of contentious debate. No Republican supported these amendments. In the end, all 20 Republicans on the committee

supported the bill July 18.

"We are delighted that this legislation has passed handily," said James A. Smith, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "This is an important step... to regulating an especially abhorrent abortion method."

The procedure, named "partial-birth" by the bill's sponsors but commonly known as "dilation and extraction" (D and X), occurs in the second half of pregnancy.

New feature debuts

A new feature begins in *Housetops* this issue. It is the MK (Missionary Kid) Prayer Calendar. Birthdays of Mississippi MKs for September are given this month. The calendar will be published six to eight weeks prior to the birthday month so that cards or other remembrances may be sent. Postal rates and regulations vary, so a check with the post office will assure correct postage.

Correspondence to those whose parents are representatives of the Foreign Mission Board's Cooperative Services International organization may be slower than others, so those should be mailed as quickly as possible each month.

Church staff members are urged to use this calendar with every ministry in the church. For more information, contact the Baptist Building's Prayer Ministry Office at (601) 968-3800, or toll-free (800) 748-1651.

Thursday, July 27, 1995

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Just for the Record

Antioch Church, Columbus, will celebrate its 47th anniversary on July 30, beginning at 11 a.m. C.C. Burns, Enterprise, will be guest speaker. A covered dish dinner in the fellowship hall will follow the morning worship services. Edward N. Knox is pastor.

Beacon Church, Hattiesburg, will celebrate its 30th anniversary on Aug. 6. John E. Barnes Jr. will bring the homecoming message during the 11 a.m. service. A reception honoring former members will be held Aug. 5 from 7-8:30 p.m. The church would like to receive past and present photos from former members.

Midway Church, Newton, will host Southern Cross on July 30 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 683-6640.

First Church, Yazoo City, will host the Down East Boys of North Carolina on July 30. They will sing in the 11 a.m. worship

service. David Raddin is pastor. For more information, call the church at (601) 746-2471.

Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth, will host Phil Cross & Poet Voices in concert July 30 at 7 p.m. Kara Blackard is pastor.

Castlewoods Church, Brandon, will present Richard and Susan Lister in concert on July 30 at 6 p.m. Richard Lister was minister of music for 14 years at First Church, Madison. For more information, call (601) 992-9977.

Lannie Wilbourn will be honored by Pinelake Church, Brandon, on his last day as pastor of the congregation. The services will be held on July 30 at 10:30 a.m. A reception for Wilbourn and his family will follow. He served as pastor for 18 years.

Nominations for the position of Associational Director of Missions for the Genesee Association, Flint, Mich., may be sent to Roy G. Adams, search committee chairman, 10158 S. State Rd., Goodrich, MI 48438. Enclose a cover letter with the resume of the person being nominated. Nominations will be received through Sept. 15.

Mississippi College-based WHJT-FM/WSLI-AM Radio took home 16 awards recently at the Mississippi Association of Broadcasters Awards Banquet held in Biloxi. In the educational division, WHJT/WSLI staffers received six gold and six silver awards. In the commercial division, the station won four silver awards. Jimmy Glenn Jr. is operations manager.



Riverhill Church, Peppertown, will host a retirement reception for its pastor and his wife, **S.E. and Katie O'Brian**, on July 30. The program will begin at 2 p.m. and fellowship and visitation will be held from 3-5 p.m. O'Brian has pastored churches in Itawamba, Oktibbeha, Lowndes, and Webster associations.

New Liberty marks 150th

New Liberty Church, Vardaman, will celebrate its 150th anniversary on July 29 and 30.

On Saturday, July 29, the celebration will begin at 5 p.m. with a dinner of snacks and finger foods at the church, followed by a program of former pastors. At 8 p.m., Southern Praise and Heavenly Vision singing groups will perform.

On Sunday, there will be no Sunday School. Worship services begin at 10 a.m. Various former pastors will also speak at that time.

At noon, a pot luck dinner will be served in the fellowship hall, followed by another time with former pastors from 1-2:30 p.m. There will be no night services.

Paul A Childress is pastor. James David Long is minister of music.

Prepare your Sunday School for 1995 and beyond!

TOWARD New "basic training" resources for all of your Sunday School leaders and teachers.

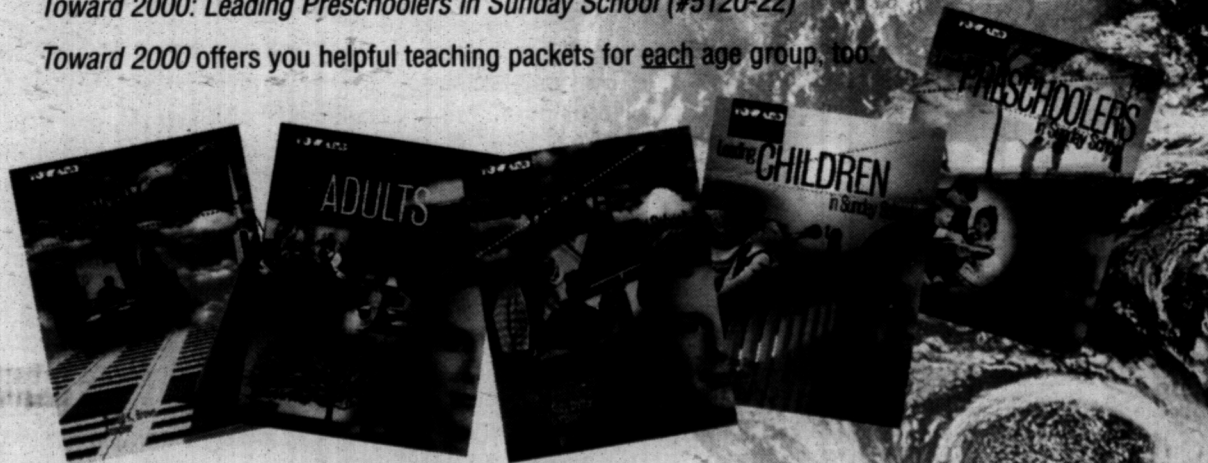
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- Toward 2000: Leading Adults in Sunday School (#5120-25)*
- Toward 2000: Leading Youth in Sunday School (#5120-24)*
- Toward 2000: Leading Children in Sunday School (#5120-23)*
- Toward 2000: Leading Preschoolers in Sunday School (#5120-22)*

Toward 2000 offers you helpful teaching packets for each age group, too.



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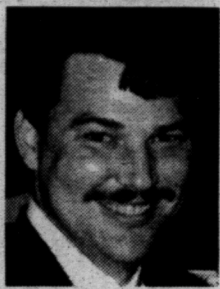
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Staff Changes

Poplar Springs Drive Church, Meridian, has called **Ray Hodgins** as minister of youth and activities. He previously served in a similar position at Crestview Church, Griffin, Ga. A native of Meridian, Hodgins is a graduate of Livingston University and New Orleans Seminary. He also served Midway Church, Meridian, his home church, as minister of youth.



Hodgins

McCool Church, Attala Association, has called **Paul Fletcher Jr.** as minister of youth for the summer. He received his education at Tocca College, Tocca, Ga.,

and will attend Mississippi College in the fall.

Steve Galloway has been called as minister of education and administration at **Meadowview Church**, Starkville, effective June 20. He previously served at **Annistown Road Church**, Lithonia, Ga. A native of Marietta, Ga., Galloway received his education at New Orleans Seminary.



Galloway

Jeff Howell has been called as pastor of **Second Church, Calhoun City**. He is a 1993 graduate

of MidAmerica Seminary in Memphis. He has served in pastorates at Beulah Church, Lexington, and Antioch Church, Bruce.

Pine Hill Church in Clarke Association, has called **Chester Carlisle** as pastor effective July 16.

New Hope Church, Gulfport, has called **Durwood Broughton** as pastor effective July 1. His previous place of service was Piney Forest Church, Chadbourn, N.C. A native of North Carolina, he received his education at East Carolina University, New Orleans Seminary, and Columbia Presbyterian Seminary, Atlanta. Broughton is a former missionary to the Ivory Coast and former pastor at Northward Church, Gulfport.

Revival Dates

Mt. Moriah, Weir: July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Mickey Armstrong-Kosciusko, evangelist; Ira Pollard, Starkville, music; Dale Nowell, pastor.

Burns, Raleigh: July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Tommy Mangum, Overt, evangelist; Danny Harrison, Forest, music; Charles Bonner, pastor.

Enon (Walshall): July 30-Aug. 4; services, 7 nightly; Bendon Ginn, evangelist; Ed May, music; Barry Cutrer, pastor.

Ephesus (Scott): July 30-Aug. 2; 10 a.m. Sunday School, 11 a.m. worship, noon lunch, 7 p.m. worship; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; Parks Marler, evangelist; Mark Jones, music; Cindy Haralson, pianist; Kenneth Jones, pastor.

Gatesville, Crystal Springs: July 26-30; Wed.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Sat., 7:30 p.m., gospel concert, the Revelations; Sunday, 11 a.m. and fellowship meal; Dalton Haggan, evangelist; Millard Mackey, pastor.

North Batesville, Batesville: July 31-Aug. 2; 7:30 p.m.; Terry L. Williams, Corbin, Ky., evangelist; Larry Reeder, music, and Martha Reeder, pianist, Harrison, Ark.; E. Lee Hudson, pastor.

Horseshoe, Tchula: July 30-Aug. 2; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:30 p.m.; speakers are Mon., V.L. Montgomery, Tues., Bernette Fielder, Wed., Gene Henderson; Bill Blount, pastor.

Holcomb (North Central): July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Cooper Barton, evangelist; Sandy Land, Itta Bena, music; Randy Ashley, pastor.

Topeka, Jayess: July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner at noon, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Tim Fanguy, Newton County, evange-

list; Dale Authement, pastor.

Ethel (Attala): July 30-Aug. 3; Sunday, 11 a.m., covered dish dinner, and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Waylon Guannt, evangelist; Doug Hubbard, music.

Noxapater (Winston): July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., noon and 7 p.m.; Robert Parrish, Hammond, La., evangelist; Mike Rogers, Louisville, music; Wayne Sanders, pastor.

Mantee, Mantee: July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, regular times; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Grant Arinder, evangelist; Rob Britton, music; youth fellowship after services Wed. night; Arinder will hold teaching time at 10 a.m.; Ken Hester, pastor.

Longview, Starkville: July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Thomas Wicker, Sallis, evangelist; Jimmy Collins, Louisville, music; Donald Pouns, pastor.

Corinth, Magee: July 30-Aug. 4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Carroll Roberson, Ripley, preaching and singing; Donald K. Walker, music; Lynsol B. Richmond, pastor.

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Homecomings

Society Hill (Jefferson Davis): Aug. 6; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner at noon; L. C. Anthony, Prentiss, guest speaker; Glen Nelson, pastor.

Darlove, Hollandale: Aug. 6; 10:30 a.m.; covered dish dinner at noon; John West, Newton, guest speaker; Daniel Casper, pastor.

Valley Park, Valley Park: Aug. 6; regular services, 11 a.m.; fellowship meal; Dennis Salley, pastor.

Trinity, Vicksburg: Aug. 6; joint adult Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; praise service in afternoon; Paul Lee, first pastor of Trinity, speaker; Mickey Bounds, pastor.

First, Overt: Aug. 6; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; singing, 1:15 p.m.; John Forsman, Florida, guest speaker; Tommy Mangum, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Bogue Chitto: Aug. 6; 11 a.m., covered dish dinner, noon; 1:15 p.m. singing, Heightsmen Quartet, Clinton, guest singers; Clarence Young, Lake Charles, La. and John Smith, Brookhaven, guest speakers; Floyd F. Higginbotham, pastor.

Center Ridge, Yazoo City: Aug. 13; 10 a.m.; covered dish meal at noon; Jim Nunnelee, Bossier City, La., guest speaker; Tommy Sparkman, Jackson, music; Howard Collier, pastor.

Oak Grove, Smithdale: Aug. 20; 11 a.m.; covered dish dinner at noon; 1 p.m. singing, Victory, McCall, guest singers; Buddy McMorris, McComb, guest speaker; Cletus Moak, pastor.

Guam church seeks pastor

The Marianas Baptist Church on the island of Guam is searching for a pastor. Due to the island's distance from the mainland United States, the church needs help obtaining names of potential candidates.

The church requests replies be sent by July 15 to:

Pastor search committee
Marianas Baptist Church
Box 10348

Naval Activities Branch
Santa Rita, Guam 96915
FAX: (671) 565-2194.

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Uniform Beware of greed



By Andy Brasher
Micah 1-3

Micah has been affectionately called "the defender of the poor" and "the common man's prophet." He is so called because of his fearless and courageous spirit in speaking out against the obvious corruption and heartlessness of the self-serving leaders and prophets of Judah and Israel.

Micah had a passion for justice and a flair for exposing the apostasy and greed of the rulers and priests of Jerusalem and Samaria. From the description given of him (1:1), Micah was a native of Judah and preached approximately from 740-700 B.C. Micah is a contemporary of Isaiah and a successor to Amos and Hosea.

Punishment for Israel and Judah (1:2-16). Micah shouted the charge of destruction against Samaria and Jerusalem. The desolation that he described caused him to be grief-stricken (v. 8). The city of Samaria, a proud and seemingly secure mountain fortress, would become a "heap of ruins" and the stones supporting her foundation would be broken and crumble down into the valley below (v. 6).

God's wrath would even extend to Judah and the "gates of Jerusalem" (v. 9). The reason for such divine punishment was "the sins of the house of Israel" (v. 5). The punishment was not only destruction but the removal from the promised land (v. 16).

Covetousness and greed to be punished (2:1-13). We learn (2:1-2) that the sins of which Micah spoke were avarice and covetousness. Evidently, from a closer examination of this chapter, Micah reveals a society that had become socially amoral.

The language used in the book is quite indicative of the literature of pre-20th century writers in describing the social conditions and economic abuses of unregulated capitalism in England and the United States. Nevertheless, the prophet boldly declares that these abuses of the common man will serve as a catalyst for a painful destruction (v. 10).

Corrupt prophets and leaders to be punished (3:1-12). Micah, a man of humble origin and surroundings, was stirred to anger at the awful deeds taking place in Jerusalem. The rulers in Jerusalem were greedy, selfish, and even cannibalistic. Reports suggested that they were tearing away the flesh from the people and chopping them up like raw meat for the soup kettle (3:2-3).

Micah told them that they would soon cry out for the Lord, but the Lord would not respond because of their evil deeds.

Even the prophets had become greedy and grasping for wealth and power (3:5-7). They preached only for money, then turned savagely against those who couldn't pay. Sound familiar?

Micah also stated that the prophets' light of discernment would turn into a night of spiritual blindness. All in all, destruction and punishment would fall upon everyone due to the sins of the rulers and priests of Jerusalem and Samaria (v. 12). Let it be said that the sins of the few often bring hardship upon the innocent, and the sins of the few often corrupt the whole. In reality, this is the tragedy that Micah prophesies.

God's power for declaring judgment (3:8). Micah declared that God had given him the expressed right — by filling Micah with his Spirit — to pronounce divine judgment upon the house of Jacob. It is clear from Micah's prophecy that it was and is God who passes judgment upon sinful man.

The central theme is simple: leaders and Christians (in general) should set the right example of giving to God and to the community in order that the heinous head of avarice be suppressed. If the social abuses of greed are not controlled, then the actions we neglect to take as a nation will have grave consequences on everyone as God's judgment is passed.

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book God's patience runs out



By Larry McDonald
Ezekiel 20, 24

"God is patient" is a true statement. But many people misconstrue that saying as meaning "God's patience is forever." Ezekiel's announcement of imminent judgment shows that, although God is merciful, continued unfaithfulness to God and unwillingness to repent lead to inevitable judgment.

God had made a covenant with Israel. He had chosen them to be his special people. Based on their covenant relationship with him, God commanded them to stop all vile, foreign religious practices (20:7; Josh. 24:14). He had delivered them into the land "flowing with milk and honey" (Duet. 6:3), and they should be faithful to him.

Israel had a long history of idolatry (20:7-11). Beginning in Egypt they rebelled and refused to listen to God (Ex. 5:20-23). This continued into the early days of the wilderness wanderings (Ex. 14:11-12). It culminated in the building of the golden calf which they worshipped (Ex. 32:1-35).

The Hebrew word for "idol" is a derisive term, literally meaning "dung pellets." It is used 38 times by Ezekiel. Although God was faithful in delivering Israel, they quickly turned to Egypt's gods for deliverance.

In the middle of the long history of Israel's idolatry stands a faithful remnant, a group of people who have continued to serve and obey God. Ezekiel speaks of these faithful ones being restored to their land (20:36-39). He uses two analogies to describe a time of purification.

The first analogy is in reference to those who "pass under my rod" (20:37). This is an allusion to the tithe (Lev. 27:32). Every tenth animal that passed under a "rod" held over the sheep was separated and declared to be holy. The purification of the exile, likewise, would separate the righteous and the wicked. The "rod" also was an instrument of discipline, correction, and punishment. This was to purge and purify those who rebelled against God.

The second part of the analogy is the "bond of the covenant" (20:37). This means to be in obligation to the covenant. God was going to be faithful to his remnant because of his covenant with them.

All of God's efforts to bring moral restoration through the ministry of the prophets had proven fruitless (24:13). Therefore God announced that the time to act had come. He would not restrain judgment (24:14); he would not have pity, nor would he relent. The present generation of Israel was to be judged (24:13b-14).

An idol is anything that takes priority over our relationship with God. There are many idols still present in today's society. One of the most prevalent is material possessions.

Howard Hendricks once dined with a rich man from a blue blood Boston family and asked him, "How in the world did you grow up in the midst of such wealth and not be consumed by materialism?"

His answer: "My parents taught us that everything in our home was either an idol or a tool."

So how do you view your possessions?

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work Freedom in Christ



By Bob Rogers
Colossians 2:16 — 3:4

A pastor in the North awoke one winter Sunday morning to discover that snow had blocked the roads, and the only way he could reach his church was to skate on the frozen river, which he did.

The elders of his church were horrified that their pastor had skated on Sunday. They asked, "Did you enjoy it?" When he said no, they decided it was acceptable.

We may laugh at such legalism, but do we frown on certain clothes or music in church? What's the difference?

In Colossians 2:16-3:4, Paul spoke out against making religion a matter of rules and rituals, rather than a relationship with Jesus.

Many of the practices Paul opposed came from the idea that the body had to be punished, similar to religious people today who think one cannot enjoy life and be a Christian. So they stressed fasting ("what you eat or drink") in verse 16, taboo objects and foods in verse 21, and "harsh treatment of the body" in verse 23.

Paul confronted legalistic observances of Jewish holidays in verse 16, pride in spiritual experiences in verse 18, and "worship of angels" in verse 18. An orthodox Jew would not worship angels, so these practices likely came from a blend of Jewish and Greek ideas. Paul's comment about worship of angels serves as a caution to us in light of the recent flood of books about angels.

Paul's main point is in verse 17: "These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ." Religious ritual and rules by themselves do not bring a person to God; they are only a shadow of the real thing, which is a personal relationship with Christ.

In Colossians 3:1-4, Paul urges us to quit looking down at the earthly shadows of religion and look up at the heavenly reality of Christ.

Paul does not offer a new set of rules to replace the old ones. This would merely be exchanging legalism for legalism. Rather, he offers guiding principles for the Christian life.

First, our priorities must be in Christ. Verse 1 urges us to seek things that are above. The words of Jesus come to mind: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matthew 6:33).

Second, our minds are to be on Christ, according to verse 2. As Philippians 4:8 says, we should think about things that are true, noble, pure, etc.

Third, verses 3-4 say that Christ is to be the center of life. If the things of Christ are on the fringe of our lives instead of the center, our lives are out of God's will.

Verse 3 is a beautiful assurance of salvation: "your life is now hidden with Christ in God."

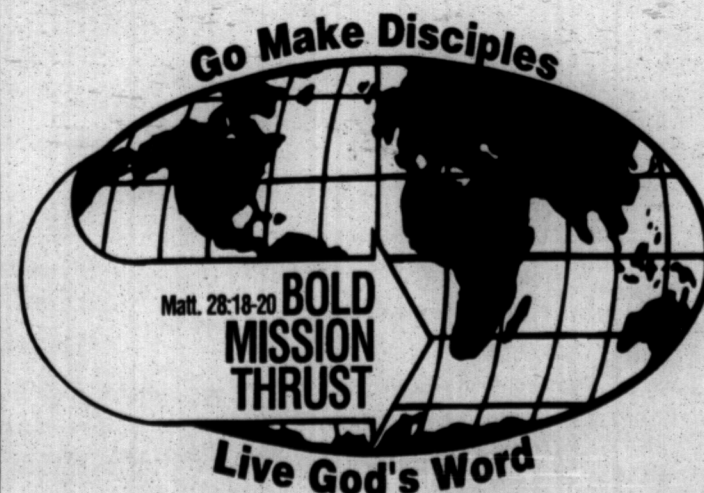
A deacon once prayed for a lady he was visiting, "O Rock of Ages, split! that she might hide herself in thee." In Christ we are secure. Why would we want to be with anyone else?

Questions to consider:

1. What practices in your church would be controversial if they were changed? Why? Have any traditions become legalism?

2. If a private investigator studied your checkbook, your calendar, your personal correspondence, and your private phone calls, on what would he conclude your mind and heart were set?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.



capsules

CITY COUNCIL IN BULGARIA PERMITS CONTINUATION OF BAPTIST PROJECT: SOFIA, Bulgaria (ABP) — Construction of a Baptist orphanage will proceed following a July 12 vote by the Sofia, Bulgaria, city council, reversing an earlier decree that stalled the project. A Baptist leader attributed the 56-1 vote approving most elements of the project to international pressure. Theo Angelov, president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria, credited "the prayers and the support of our brothers and sisters in the Baptist world" for the reversal by the city council. In February, the council rejected the project, citing "negative effects" the Baptists would have on citizens, especially children, should the orphanage be built. Work on the project ceased abruptly and the city council stated its intent to reclaim possession of the centrally located property. After news of the rejection spread, "perhaps hundreds of protest letters" from Baptists all over the world asked the mayor of Sofia to reconsider the project, Angelov said. In addition to letters from Baptist unions, churches and individuals, the foreign affairs offices of some European governments and Bulgarian embassies around the world were asked to intervene. "Without the international pressure brought by these people, this would have been impossible," Angelov reported in a letter to leaders of the European Baptist Federation in Hamburg, Germany.

CBF COUNCIL APPROVES PLAN TO HIRE FIELD REPS IN EASTERN U.S.: FORT WORTH (BP) — The coordinating council of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship has approved a plan to hire seven part-time "field representatives" in eastern states to promote the 4-year-old organization. The unanimous vote of the 80-member board came during a July 19-20 meeting in Fort Worth, just prior to the CBF's fifth General Assembly meeting July 20-22 at the Tarrant County Convention Center. CBF is an organization of moderate Southern Baptists, formed in 1991, critical of Southern Baptist Convention leadership.

OPERATION BLESSING AND LOCKHEED MARTIN ANNOUNCE \$14.5 MILLION AGREEMENT: Operation Blessing Chairman Pat Robertson signed an unprecedented \$14.5 million contract with Lockheed Martin Aircraft Service Company beginning a ten-month technical process to reconfigure an L-1011 wide-body jet into a Flying Hospital — the largest, full-care, fully-equipped, self-contained, transportable hospital ever built — and the first privately operated hospital aircraft in existence. The Flying Hospital will be a very efficient operation, with virtually all of the medical doctors and other professions attending the mission trips, participating as volunteers. Donations of medical supplies and equipment are also welcomed through the Operation Blessing "Gift in Kind" program. Reconfiguration of the Flying Hospital is scheduled to be completed next Spring. Its maiden ministry flight is tentatively planned for May, 1996, following a brief U.S. tour.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO FELLOWSHIP UP SHARPLY THROUGH SIX MONTHS: ATLANTA (ABP) — During the past six months, contributions to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship rose sharply over the same period last year, according to a financial report released recently by the organization's Atlanta headquarters. Through June, 1995 contributions totaled more than \$6.7 million, an increase of almost 9% over gifts to the Fellowship during the first six months of 1994. About 85% of the money received by the Fellowship is used to support missions and ministry ventures sponsored by the group, formed in 1990 to offer moderate alternatives to programs of the conservative-dominated Southern Baptist Convention.

Missionary News

John and Claudia Brown, missionaries to Malawi, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 30018, Chichiri, Blantyre 3, Malawi). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Pine Bluff and considers Star City his hometown. The former Claudia Tenney, she was born in Bowling Green, Ohio, and considers Jackson, Miss., her hometown.

Robert and Margaret Fortenberry, missionaries to Botswana, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 228, Lobatse, Botswana). He was born in Moss Point, and considers Jackson his hometown. The former Margaret McKinley, she was born in Elizabethtown, Ky. Daughter of Southern Baptist missionaries, she grew up in Gweru, Zimbabwe; Wake Forest, N.C.; and Miami, Fla.

James and Brenda Hearn,

missionaries to Togo, are on the field (address: BP 1353, Lome, Togo). He is a native of Corinth; she is the former Brenda Hunt of Bogalusa, La.

Kenneth and Christine Mauldin, missionary associates to Guyana, are in the States (address: 4847 Champions Way, Columbus, Ga. 31909). He was born in Fairfield, Ala. The former Christine Works, she was born in Amory. Both consider Columbus, Ga., their hometown.

Robert and Nan Sugg, missionaries to Taiwan, are on the field (address: #20, Sec. 2, Jung Hwa N. R., Tainan 704, Taiwan ROC). They are natives of Mississippi. He is from Eupora. The former Nan Gregory, she was born in Clarksdale and grew up in Jackson.

Through Mountain Outreach Program... Brotherhood team of Florence's Cleary Church finds its home

By Beth Wyatt

WILLIAMSBURG, Ky. (BP) — It has been 10 years since members of Cleary Church's Brotherhood in Florence (Miss.), searched Royal Ambassador magazines and mission lists for a construction project and selected the Mountain Outreach Program at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.

"We planned to go to Utah in 1985," John Thornton recounts, "but found the Mountain Outreach program met with the criteria to satisfy our out-of-state mission desires."

Since that first trip in 1985, the Brotherhood group has made the 1,000-mile round trip to Kentucky seven of 10 years. They

spend a week, staying in a local motel and, until this year, eating in fast food spots.

This year they used the facilities of Main Street Church, Williamsburg to prepare and serve their meals.

The group donated \$2,000 for materials to be used in building a house for a Whitley County, Ky., family, then worked 16-hour days to completely build one house from the floor joists and aid in the finishing of a second home.

Over the years various contributions, other than house construction, have been made, including the donation of a van to the program.

"The blessings of working with families and seeing their joys cannot be described," Thornton states. "So much is being missed by church members throughout our convention when we limit what we do for missions."

Thornton says no recognition is wanted by the dedicated men, but they do hope others will see a need to participate in the many mission opportunities offered throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Cleary's Brotherhood team is comprised of three carpenters, an electrician, a paramedic, a city worker, and a varied collection of businessmen.

In addition to the Williamsburg mission program, Cleary's Brotherhood added an additional 13,000 square feet to the Cleary Church building during 1993-94 and has done roofing and window maintenance for the congregation, along with working on churches in Mississippi and Alabama in painting and repair projects.

Wyatt is director of the public information office for Baptist-affiliated Cumberland College in Williamsburg, Ky.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

"Accept the fact that your past isn't going to get any better," is a phrase I read in several self-help books. What does that mean?

Your past is exactly that: past! You cannot change the past — Hitler's Holocaust, Pearl Harbor, or the Oklahoma City bombing. These events will always mark a time in history, and the same is true of your individual past. As with physical scars, you have emotional scars from your past that will always be with you. Your past isn't going to change, so you must deal with the facts from that past. You can run from the facts and pretend they don't exist, or you can accept the facts and learn from them as you go on with your life. You cannot drive a car if your eyes are constantly fixed on the rear-view mirror. You can glance back occasionally, but you must continue to move forward. The choice is yours.

I discovered my daughter is taking birth control pills, given to her without my knowledge by the school health clinic. Please tell me what to say to her and how to approach school officials about this.

First, confirm where your daughter got the pills. Secondly, talk with your daughter to find out what is going on in her life that makes her feel she must take the pills. Listen to her. She may feel pressured by classmates. She may be searching for someone to help her make sense of what is going on in her life right now. This could be a crucial time in your daughter's life, as well as in your relationship with her. Let her know that you are concerned that her school would do this without consulting you, and enlist her to help you write down the points you want to make with school officials. Make an appointment to see her school's principal, and keep going up the chain of command if you don't get satisfactory answers. When school officials approved the clinic, they may not have heard any opposition and thought their approval was acceptable to everyone. Schools need to hear all sides in making such decisions. You may be only one voice, but be assured there are others who feel as you do. The problem is that we Christians do not always let our voice be heard on issues like this.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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VPKOG SUJO: RURO

This week's clue: G equals S.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Eight: One.

Baptist Record

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